

support Israel's right to exist in peace and security, defend religious freedom and provide humanitarian relief to those in need."

By choosing David L. Hyman for this recognition, the American Jewish Committee brings honor to the award itself and to the legal profession of Philadelphia. I extend my own best wishes to this richly deserving super citizen in our midst, and I say: Mazel Tov, Counselor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, I was inadvertently detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 88, 89, and 90. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three votes.

IN HONOR OF ANDY WILLNER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andy Willner's lasting contributions and dedication while serving as NY/NJ Baykeeper Executive Director. Mr. Willner's commitment to safeguarding the Hudson-Raritan Estuary helped eliminate pollution and restored efficiency in the estuary's streams and shores for almost twenty years.

In March Mr. Willner will retire after eighteen years of service as Baykeeper. On March 7, 2008, at the Liberty House Restaurant in Liberty State Park, the Baykeeper's Founders Fete will honor Mr. Willner for all he has done in keeping New Jersey and New York waterways safe.

Mr. Willner began his distinguished career as a sailing vessel captain, city planner and boat builder. He has always concerned himself with environmental issues and has thus participated in numerous conferences concerning shore protection and keeping our harbors safe.

Later, he served as member on the Dredge Materials Management Work Group and the Hackensack Meadowlands Special Area Management Plan among the various environmental organizations he was a part of. Mr. Willner has received many renowned awards for his work including the "Hero of the Harbor" Award as well as the Stewardship Recognition Award from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mr. Willner began his work with the NY/NJ Baykeeper in 1989 and has served as Executive Director for eighteen years. His work with the Baykeeper included bringing attention to coastal issues, protecting our shores, and eliminating pollution in our waters. With the momentous efforts of Andy Willner, the Hudson-Raritan Estuary has been kept safe and protected for nearly twenty years.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the work of Andy Willner. His continual efforts to keep our waters protected will continue to benefit and inspire the people of New Jersey.

PASS FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, While I am pleased that the House has once again renewed Andean trade preferences, I think this bill highlights more than ever the need to pass pending free trade agreements that have languished for far too long without consideration. We must continue to open markets to encourage American companies to innovate and compete with their global counterparts. This grows our economy and creates jobs.

I am proud to represent a district in Washington State that integrates our nation's leading technology innovators with a vibrant and highly productive small business community. Opening new global markets gives them incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and employ more American workers. I have seen these job-creating effects first-hand, with trade accounting for 1 out of every 3 jobs in my state.

In this time of economic uncertainty, Congress must act now to advance America's broader trade agenda. We cannot allow important agreements with Panama and Korea to remain on hold while Europe and China continue to knock down trade barriers and improve their competitiveness in the global economy. And surely recent provocative comments by the leader of Venezuela helps put into perspective the urgent need to use the power of trade in Colombia. I urge my colleagues in the Majority to stop the delays and pass these free trade agreements. Let's advance the trade measures needed to grow our economy, create jobs, and not only improve our relations with global partners, but also to foster global peace and freedom.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE RUNNERS-UP OF WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL IN SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I congratulate the South Bend Washington High School Lady Panthers, the 2008 State Runners-Up in the 4A girls basketball division.

In their quest towards this title, the Lady Panthers compiled a 23-2 record on the road to their third consecutive trip to Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Unfortunately the team faced a disappointing loss there, but they can still be proud of their reign as South Bend's premier girls basketball team.

The South Bend Washington team consisted of 12 outstanding young women: Seniors Emily Phillips, Vanessa Wiley, Meagan Phillips and Shalana Murray; Juniors Skylar Diggins, Karis Phillips, Alandrea Pfeifer-Nailon, Takoia Larry and Rakeesha Lane; Sophomore Avante Newsome-Gunn; Freshmen Terran Scott and Alexis Macon.

Head Coach Marilyn Coddens was assisted by Don Coddens. Officials such as Mayor

Steve Luecke, School Superintendent Robert Zimmerman, Washington Principal George McCullough Jr., and Athletic Director Patrick Mackowiak lent support and encouragement throughout the season.

The city of South Bend and the surrounding area rallied behind the Lady Panthers. In what has become a winter tradition on the West Side of South Bend, thousands of fans gathered to send off the team and to travel south for the big game where they made the event at the Fieldhouse feel like a home game.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the members of the girls basketball team of South Bend Washington High School on their Semi-State title and their fearless, spirited play at the Championship game.

HONORING MAXINE HALPERN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Maxine Halpern has involved herself deeply in Jewish affairs internationally, nationally, and locally. She is a born and bred Bronxite who graduated from City University of New York.

Maxine is the daughter of two World War II veterans, the U.S. Army and the Royal Air Force. Traveling to England to visit family began at an early age and touring foreign lands became a lifelong interest, having traveled to over 40 countries on 5 continents as well as throughout much of the United States.

She is a supporter of over 50 philanthropies both secular and religious. Maxine has been awarded the Nahum Goldman Leadership Award, and is a member of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's international Leadership Council, among other equally prestigious organizations.

She is also active in local Jewish communal life as a member of the board of trustees, as vice president, and as president of the Riverdale Temple. She was appointed founding president of the Congregation Shaarei Shalom. For all of her outstanding contributions to community life, the Riverdale Jewish Community Council presents her with the Michael Schreck Community Builder Award.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL K. (MICK-EY) ENGLETT FOR EXCELLENCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Michael K. Englett and his induction into the Florida Community College Activities Association Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

For the past 18 years, Okaloosa County and the surrounding community have benefited significantly from the service of Mr. Michael Englett, dean of student services and director of athletics for Okaloosa-Walton College. Mr. Englett's vision of a comprehensive athletic program transformed Okaloosa-Walton College and propelled the school beyond the